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Letter dated 28 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a copy of the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia concerning the bombing of the territory of Georgia on 27 November 2001 by the military air forces of the Russian Federation (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74 (p), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Peter **Chkheidze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 28 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

On 27 November 2001, at 2120 p.m., six Su-25 type military jets of the Russian Federation violated Georgian airspace and bombed territory adjacent to the village of Birkani, in the Akmeta district of Georgia. The jets penetrated Georgian airspace for 50 kilometres and remained in the area for about 30 minutes. The same night, Russian military helicopters conducted several air strikes on Georgian territory near the Chechnia and Ingushetia segments of the Georgian-Russian State border, including the outskirts of the villages of Terga, Arkhti, Kue, Zemo Omalo, Akhieli and Amgha. The data on the human loss and property damage caused by these air strikes will be compiled subsequently.

Today, at 12.35 p.m., two Su-25 type military jets of the Russian Federation repeatedly violated Georgian airspace. The jets flew over Kodori gorge and retreated back to Russian airspace.

Such actions of the Russian military air forces can only be characterized as undisguised aggression against a sovereign neighbouring State.

At the same time, what is especially alarming is that the above actions were carried out on the threshold of the Summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Moscow and the planned meeting between the Presidents of Georgia and the Russian Federation. We cannot exclude that the above-mentioned actions are attempts of the destructive forces aimed against a possible positive outcome of the presidential meeting.

It is the view of the Georgian side that the above-mentioned actions became possible as a result of the disdain with which were met the numerous Georgian protests against the encroachment of Georgia's sovereignty by the Russian political leadership. The outcome of these acts conducted by the Russian side, if not suppressed in a timely manner, can only deepen the instability of the Caucasus region. One must not turn a blind eye to such threats. The international community must raise its voice against the coarse violation of internationally accepted basic principles of peaceful coexistence.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses its utmost resentment and, in appealing to the Russian leadership, categorically demands the cessation of the repeated acts of aggression against Georgia.

Henceforth, if these kinds of actions continue, Georgia reserves the right to take adequate steps provided by the norms of international law.

Tbilisi, 28 November 2001